

SACRIFICE

117

Raghupati

Leave me alone. The shadows
 of
evil have thickened.
 The King's
throne is raising its insolent
 head above
the temple altar. Ye gods of
 these
degenerate days, are ye ready
 to obey
the King's laws with bowed
 head?
fawning upon him like his
 courtiers ?
Have only men and demons
 combined
to usurp gods'
dominions in this
world, and is heaven
 powerless to
defend its honour? But
 there re-
main the Brahmins, though
 the gods
be absent ; and the King's
 throne will
supply fuel to the sacrificial
 fire of
their anger. My child, my
 mind is
distracted.

Whatever has happened? father

I cannot find words to say.
Ask the
Mother Goddess who has
been defied.